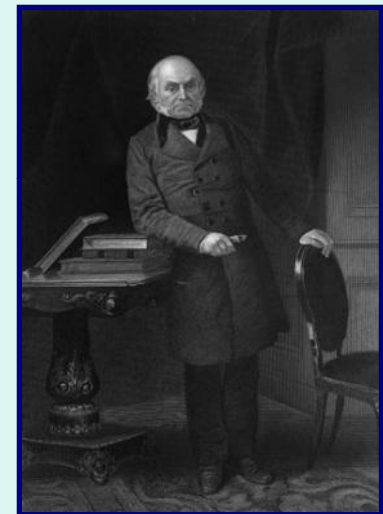
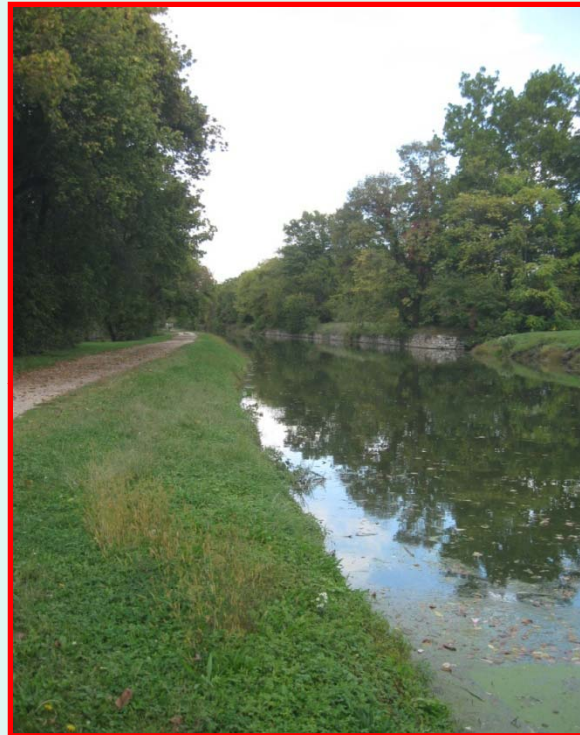
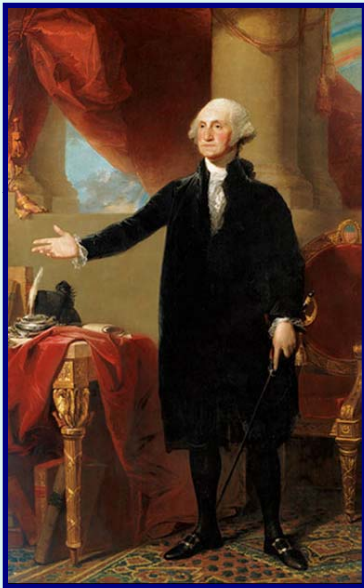


# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal

National Historical Park  
Washington, D.C./Maryland/West Virginia

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Presidents Along the Towpath Inauguration Junior Ranger Activity

2009 Presidential  
Inauguration



# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal



Can you imagine what it was like to live in a time before automobiles and airplanes? When the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal began, it was difficult to move materials around the country because there was no transportation that was easy to use. Wagons required many animals to pull them and they would often get stuck in the muddy roads. George Washington had an idea to use the Potomac River as a way of moving materials such as coal from the west to the east where people could use them. He became president of the first canal company that ran along the Potomac.

On July 4, 1828, John Quincy Adams, the 6th President of the US, broke ground for the creation of the C&O Canal. The canal was to go from Georgetown to Pittsburgh, PA running along the Maryland side of the Potomac River. It only made it to Cumberland, MD, but that is still a distance of 184.5 miles dug by hand!

The boats on the canal were able to travel up and down the canal by mule-power. Two mules were needed to pull a canal boat that weighed 120 tons with its cargo. That is the weight of 15 full grown elephants! Mules walked along a towpath which ran alongside the canal for the entire length. The towpath was wide enough for passing other teams of mules going the other direction.

As we prepare for the inauguration of a new president, think about the contributions that previous presidents have made to the C&O Canal and how President Obama may contribute in the future.



# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal



## Presidents Along the Towpath

From Day One to the present, American Presidents have visited the C&O Canal for a variety of reasons. See if you can place the Presidents “Along the Towpath”.

1. This president lived in Georgetown near the canal when he was a senator, and a performing arts center named in his honor is near Mile 0 of the canal.

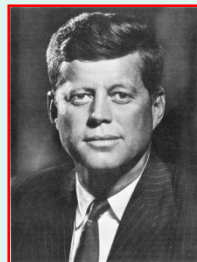
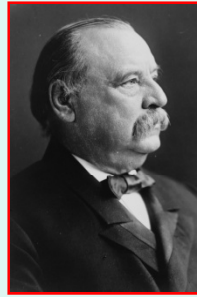
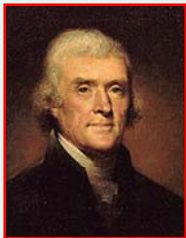
---

2. Following the floods of 1996, this president and his Vice President, Al Gore, visited Great Falls to help clean up after the damaging natural disaster.

---

3. This president loved to fish at Lock 22, known as Pennyfield Lock near Seneca, Maryland (Hint-his name is the same as a large city in Ohio).

---



4. From a vantage point in Harpers Ferry that is now named for him, this president declared the view towards Maryland and the area where the C&O Canal was later built as “worth a voyage across the Atlantic”. (Hint-this president’s home was named Monticello).

---

5. This president was one of the first people to dream of a canal system along the Potomac River. He was stationed near the canal terminus at Cumberland during the 1750s while the French and Indian War was taking place. He visited the town of Williamsport in 1790 because it was being considered as a site for the nation’s capital.

---



**Now that you have placed the presidents along the towpath, how many of these places can you visit with your family?**

# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal



## Presidents and the Park

The C&O Canal National Historical Park has many connections to our nation's presidents. See if you can match each president to their role in the history of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal!

1. George Washington (1789-1797)

A. Broke ground on July 4, 1828 to begin building canal at Little Falls near Washington D.C.

2. John Quincy Adams (1825-1829)

B. Signed legislation establishing C&O Canal as a National Historical Park in 1971

3. Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)

C. Visited Sharpsburg area near the C&O Canal during the Civil War

4. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)

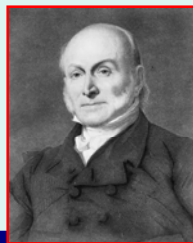
D. Was head of the Patowmack Canal Company in 1785 and dreamed of a canal system to the Ohio River Valley

5. Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

E. Established the Civilian Conservation Corps that had work camps on the abandoned C&O Canal at Great Falls, MD

6. Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974)

F. Named a section of the canal as a National Monument in 1961





# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal



## Towns Along the Path

Presidents made their mark all along the canal. Unscramble the names and places!



1. President John Q. Adams broke ground for the canal at ILTELT LALSF \_\_\_\_\_

2. This canal town was once in consideration for the nation's capitol TWSMLLPAlOR \_\_\_\_\_

2. This president thought the view at Harpers Ferry was magnificent.  
SMOATH NEJFSROEF \_\_\_\_\_



3. President Obama will be inaugurated in Washington DC, which is close to this beginning point of the canal WTGERGNEO \_\_\_\_\_

4. George Washington was stationed near this town during the French and Indian Wars, and this town later became the ending point for the C&O Canal.  
DALRCMBEUN \_\_\_\_\_





## What Do You Think?

Now that you have learned how past presidents contributed to the C&O Canal, how do you think President Obama will help the canal? Write or draw your ideas of what the president can do to make sure the canal stays around for many generations to come!

Once you have finished this book, bring it to one of our visitors centers to be sworn in and receive your Junior Ranger Badge!



## Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park Inaugural Junior Ranger

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to:

Leave the plants, animals, and historical objects in all parks undisturbed.

Explore other national parks.

Help keep America clean, safe and beautiful for everyone.

---

Name

**Congratulations on completing the Junior Ranger Inaugural Activity Guide!**

---

Park Ranger

---

Date Sworn In

**The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the  
American people so that all may experience our heritage.**

